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MORE WAGES FOR ALL—SAVE GOVERNMENT WORKERS

The United States Steel Corporation announces a general advance in wages of about 10 per cent, effective December 15. With two previous increases this year, it means that wages will be 33 per cent higher than on January 1 last. About 250,000 employees are affected. The company now has about 175,000 laborers, who will get \$2.54 per day against \$2.31 last January. For the entire roll of workers affected, the increase amounts to about \$9 per month, bringing the average wage to \$29 per month.

From Massachusetts comes simultaneously the statement of general wage increases in the textiles. Three times during the current year there have been increases to these armies of workers, aggregating, it is stated, about 25 per cent.

The other day the Society for the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor, in New York, calculated that necessities of life have advanced in a year 30 per cent. Thus the wage increases are just about keeping pace.

Everybody's wages are going up, it would seem—except the Government employees, of whom the rank and file were scandalously underpaid before the era of inflated prices began. The demand for a horizontal increase of 25 per cent in clerical salaries in the departments will horrify "economists" in Congress; yet it is just about in keeping with wage advances generally. That increase ought long ago to have been granted. To give it now, would be too tardy justice. The Government people would not even be placed on a parity with the steel and textile workers; for their increase would have come long after it should have been granted.

GREATER LABOR WAR AHEAD

President Wilson, talking to the National Grange the other day, impressed the need for increasing the national production of necessities of life. He was talking primarily of farmers and their output; but what he said applied as well to other industries.

It is a national duty, now; a duty to the rest of the world as well as to ourselves; a duty to civilization, struggling to sustain itself—to make this country contribute as much as possible of production. It happens that profit also is on the side of this duty. There would seem no possible argument against it.

Across the water, war's necessities induced the labor unions of Great Britain to waive a thousand restrictions on output, in order that national needs might be met. It was placed on the ground of patriotic obligation. The whole industrial world is mobilizing its capacities in order to meet the exigent demands of this time.

Yet in the face of this condition, there is voiced, here in America, a demand for the universal eight-hour day, and there is threat of a vastly greater conflict between employers and employees than that which menaced a few weeks ago. The principle of the eight-hour day is a good and desirable one. But is it worth so much as to justify plunging this country into the gigantic struggle, the paralyzing conditions, that would mark a general move to coerce the country into granting such terms?

Seemingly there lies just ahead the possibility of a far greater and more bitter conflict than impended when the Adamson act passed. Instead of preventing the fight, that legislation has brought on a greater controversy, reaching to millions where the earlier differences directly affected hundreds of thousands. The nation faces real danger of industrial and transportation paralysis at a time when the resulting disasters would be incomparably greater than ever before. It will require statesmanship, conciliation, broad vision and mutual confidence to avoid the crisis. Yet it must be avoided.

ECONOMIC LAW VS. EMBARGO

We shall presently have Congress with us, and it will bring a group of these amateur economists who want to solve the question of high living costs by imposing embargo on food products. There is pretty definite understanding that President Wilson is opposed to embargoes, and also that the large majority of both houses of Congress will stand firmly against such proposals. Without doubt they will, if they will take the trouble to examine the proposal carefully.

Wheat is the particular object of solicitude among those who would forbid exports. In the latter days of September and early October most of the winter wheat is sown in this

country. This present season, when the time came for this sowing, it was known that the year's wheat crop was very short, that stocks all over the world were at low ebb, and that in all probability the high prices would continue into another crop year. So, when the seeding time came, great quantities of wheat were sown. Next year there will be a very large wheat area, and if growing conditions are reasonable and the world generally produces an average yield, prices will come sharply downward, though they are likely to be high.

Now suppose, in early September, an embargo had been imposed on wheat. Prices would have come down all right. The farmer who has been getting from \$1.50 to \$1.75 would perhaps have been limited to \$1. What would have been his attitude?

First, he would have turned from wheat at seeding time to some crop not embargoed. Instead of a big acreage of wheat, a small area would have been sown. Next year would have brought an abnormally small yield. Other wheat countries, knowing of the embargo here, would have increased their plantings, and a year hence, having no embargoes, would have reaped the harvest of high prices in Europe, from which Americans would be barred, first, by the fact that they had the embargo, and, second, by the fact that they would have no surplus to export.

The farmer, finding this source of profit cut off, would take stock of his general situation. He would find himself paying war prices for everything made of iron, steel, copper, fibers, and the like, and would demand embargoes on exports of these. The farmer's power to get about what he demands has been demonstrated from time to time; returns from the recent election suggest that the present Administration, unless strangely ungrateful, will not be deaf to the voice of the agricultural States. So there would be reciprocal embargoes on things the farmer would buy, prompt reduction of their production just as in the case of wheat, and presently we should have low prices—and the longest bread lines ever organized.

Economic law is the best reliance in such cases. High prices stimulate production, and that tends to overcome the extremes of price. The other day a farm foreman, having finished sowing an unusually large acreage of wheat, said to his employee:

"There's still that twenty-five-acre field that we had intended to sow in rye for the dairy cattle. Do you still want it in rye, or shall it go into wheat?"

"Put it into wheat," was the reply. "The money is in wheat now, not in milk."

Into wheat it went, and the supply of milk from that farm will suffer accordingly.

Thousands of acres have, right in this vicinity, been put into excess wheat acreage. Cheaper wheat and dearer milk will naturally result. The effect of interfering with natural, normal, understood forces in production, is to demoralize everything. An embargo can be used to reduce the price of the embargoed article; it means, however, in a time like this, reducing production all around, and bringing idleness in an area of low prices and wages, as against feverish, high-speed production in an area of high prices and wages.

EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH

Time was—near two generations of it, indeed—when men were wont to say that the Emperor Francis Joseph would be the last of the Hapsburgs to rule over Austria. Francis Joseph has gone to his reward, and the probability of Austria surviving him under the Hapsburg dynasty is stronger than during most of the period of his long rule.

The world war has brought a new and better understanding of Francis Joseph and of Austria. Metternich left on the minds of men an impression which too long did the Emperor a sad injustice. The dual monarchy was looked upon as a tottering survival of tyranny, a relic of divine rights. It was supposed to be held in the iron grip of Hapsburg tyranny; the inability of its various races and tongues to reach a common understanding was accounted responsible for the failure to rise and overthrow the despotism.

In truth, Francis Joseph deserved better. He was not always a wise ruler, nor even a strong. As a young man he had small conception of the duties and obligations his place imposed. But he became the most liberal of Hapsburgs, the most understanding interpreter of Austria-Hungary's vexing mind. He understood that Austria-Hungary was held together, not by cohesion around a dynasty at Vienna and Buda Pesth, but by pressure from without. It must stand together because it dare not fall apart. It was a bundle of staves, of varying lengths and fibers; but, so long as it was bound firmly together, each re-enforced the feebleness of the other until, united, they became strength.

Under Francis Joseph Austria lost to Italy in order that modern Italy might be created; lost to Germany in 1866, that Germany might be unified and raised to dominate the conti-

nent. But the Emperor became also King over Hungary, and the fact that he held them together and built up so great a stability as has been demonstrated in the last two years is proof of the wisdom that turned misfortunes to good account. Most liberal and intelligent of the eastern powers, Austria held fast to Hungary, earned the loyalty of the Poles in Galicia, expanded into Bosnia-Herzegovina, and played a devious game in the diplomacy of Europe. She rose to greater power as the Turk lost standing. The triple alliance provided opportunity to maintain herself as a great power, while the wisdom and liberality of Francis Joseph brought her conglomerate of peoples and languages to better and better realization of their necessity to stand united.

Austria, rent by faction, religion, race, traditions, might well be compared with France, the least faction-torn of all the warring countries. Each has given the world a surprise in the strength and determination it has displayed. When the historical estimate is at last made up, Francis Joseph will stand out as one of the great rulers of his time. His life will rank as one of the supreme tragedies of great station. According to his lights, he was a good man; that he could be the inheritor of all the Hapsburg traditions and be as good as he was, is the proof that he had a conception of the trusteeship he held so long. His reign was one of the longest in history; and it ended in the midst of tragedy, as appropriately might have been expected of such a reign.

Don Marquis' Column

T. A. Daly's Poems. Thomas A. Daly's new book of verse, "Songs of Wedlock" (David McKay: Philadelphia) is at hand, and lovers of this true poet's beautiful songs will be glad of the chance to get such a rich selection from the best of them in book form.

Among the shorter poems in the volume there is none that we like better than "The Queen's Fleets," which we take the liberty of reprinting here:

THE QUEEN'S FLEETS.

Take for thy throne, my queen, this niche my hand

Hath carved for thee, Here in the gray breast of this dune

Of sand That fronts the sea.

In sovereign state aloof, the solitude Hedging thee round, as once thy

maidenhood. Make me no partner of thy thought

Or speech. This hour when day and darkness

meet, But count me merely jetsam of the

beach, Here at thy feet.

It is mute beauty's hour. No late bird

sings: Voiceless serene, The sea dreams: Silence holds all

lovely things— And thou art queen! For Silence, in the twilight's gold and

red Behind thee, sets a crown upon thy

head. Send forth O Queen, thy fleets upon

the main. Send forth thy daring fleets of

thought, And let me wait to hail them home

again With riches fraught.

By fancy captained, send thy fleets

afar. To win the sea; Send them to know what spoils in

ocean are. What mystery, What beauty in all things that "suf-

fered change" In coral caves to "something rich and

strange." Then bring them home and I with

kingly might Will take their treasure, as it lies

Safe-harbored in the starlit, purple

night Of thy dear eyes.

Maybe the price of paper went up to

see what the price of food was doing up there.

"Twenty-five cents a day for a

scientific diet," shouts a headline. But so many people would rather

have something to eat.

Who They Are.

Sir: I am the solemn looking individual who, on the elevated and subway trains, gravely writes on the backs of envelopes and on sundry scraps of paper little items which my fellow passengers think are topics for future sermons. In order to relieve their curiosity, I beg to state that I simply purge my system of little things which in most people are dammed back until the usual spring freshets. As a rule, I twist up the papers and use them as pipe lighters. But at decent intervals (even at the risk of burning my fingers) I thrust them at the Evening Sun instead of the vulgar gas flame. For example: Old Mother Hubbard sat down and blubbered.

Her dog had gnawed the last bone; She felt quite a dupe, for she could not make soup. She was broke and her credit had flown.

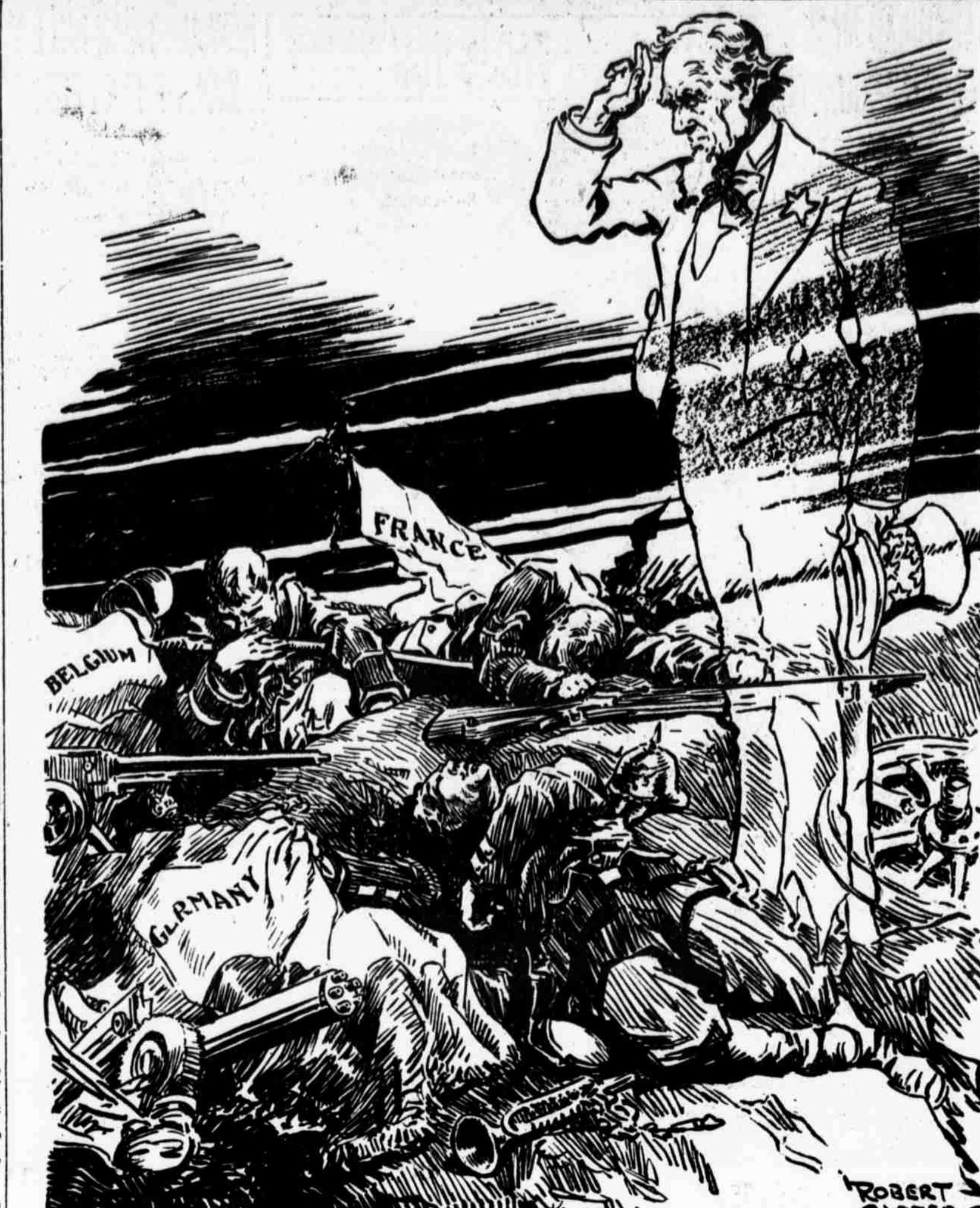
To market, to market, to buy a fat Home again, home again. Had to renig.

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe. Her children were many, her penes were few. But, nevertheless, she was fairly content.

Till the high cost of leather just doubled her shoe.

W. E. MAKINLEY.

A letter writer complains to the editor that "in these days, when every one smokes everywhere and at any time, the air in our eating places is apt to be thicker than the soup." And with more cabbage in it? Or does he speak of Doc Pease soup? DON MARQUIS.



"The Deaths Ye Died, I Have Watched Beside."

TRADE PREPAREDNESS IS MESSAGE KEYNOTE

President to Urge Industrial Harmony in Communication to Congress December 5.

A call to arms of American business to meet unprecedented trade conditions after the war is to be the keynote of President Wilson's message to be read to Congress on Tuesday, December 5. The President is completing the message today and expects soon to have it in the hands of the Public Printer.

The President believes the country's industries can do a maximum amount of work only when there is a minimum of industrial unrest. His message is expected to emphasize this in an appeal to employer and employee for more co-operation, more confidence of each in the other, and less tendency to class feeling.

Would Abolish Strikes. In this connection the President formulated plans for rendering practically impossible strikes of all kinds. He will urge completion of a program similar to that proposed in his last message to handle such situations as the recent threatened strike of the railroad brotherhoods.

Believing the railroad problem as important a domestic issue as confronts the country, the President will urge Congress to give the most careful consideration to possible legislation which will aid the transportation systems to expand and improve, to meet the additional stress under which they will be placed at the close of the war.

Abroad also, the foundations must be laid for the coming trade upheaval, the President believes. He will urge Congress to act immediately upon a measure along the lines of the Webb bill, which would have permitted American exporters to organize without fear of anti-trust law action.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN WASHINGTON TODAY

Many Interesting Events of Importance Are Scheduled For Capital.

Today. Meeting, Irish History Study Club, at 1155 Potomac street northeast, 8 p. m. Meeting, French Section, at 1828 Twenty-third street, 8 p. m. Card party, auspices Ladies' Co-operative Improvement Society, at Silver Spring, Md. benefit social service League of Montgomery county, 8 p. m. Concert, Washington College of Music, at Quincy Memorial Presbyterian Church, 8:30 p. m.

Masonic—Harmony, No. 17; Washington Council, No. 1, Royal and Select Master; Naam, No. 3, Eastern Star. Odd Fellows—Eastern, No. 7; Federal City, No. 20; Harmony, No. 9; Mt. Pleasant, No. 2, Rebekahs. Knights of Pythias—Mount Vernon, No. 5; Hermon, No. 12; Union, No. 23; Columbia, No. 26; Friendship Temple, No. 2; Pythian Sisters; entertainment, ways and means committee, Pythian Temple. Improved Order of Red Men—Osceola Tribe, White Eagle Tribe. Patriotic Order of Americans—Camp No. 1 and No. 2, oyster supper. Lecture, "Samoa and Other Islands of the South Sea," by J. B. Hyde, at T. Myers Mason House, 11:30 a. m.

Address, "Safety First," by Raymond W. Putnam, Superintendent of Police, at meeting of Washington Safety First Association, Public Library, 8 p. m. Interpretative dancing, Miss Norma Schwenker and Eleanora Blakeman, before Young Women's Christian Association, 4 p. m.

Meeting, Central Northwest Citizens' Civic Association at Young Men's Christian Association, 8 p. m. Speech, John Barrett, "Personal Impressions of European War and its Rattle Front," before Commercial Club, 7:30 p. m. Meeting, Town Council of Takoma Park, disbanding of W. & M. Ry. request, 8 p. m. Lecture, "Mark Twain," by Bishop William A. Quayle, at Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, 8 p. m. Sing social, at Terminal Railroad Y. M. C. Club, 8 p. m. Musical, students of Holy Cross Academy, at academy, 8 p. m.

Luncheon, under Congress Heights Catholic Church building committee, this afternoon. Old Masonic Temple. Dance at 8 p. m. Organization, Physical Culture Club, at Home Club, under Mrs. H. S. Carter, at 8 p. m.

Amusements. Heloise—Ballet Russe, 8:15 p. m. National—"Chin Chin," 8:15 p. m. R. F. Keith—Vaudeville, 7:15 and 8:15 p. m. Polly—"Little Girl Lost," 8:15 p. m. Gayety—Burlesque, 7:15 and 8:15 p. m. Lyceum—Burlesque, 8:15 p. m. Cosmo—Vaudeville, 1:30 to 11 p. m. Loew's Columbia—Photoplay, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m. Grand—Photoplay, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m. Strand—Photoplay, 10 a. m. to 11 p. m.

Tomorrow. Meeting, Washington Chapter, Alumnae Association of Notre Dame of Maryland, at Rosebush, 8 p. m. Meeting, Washington Chemical Society, at Cosmos Club, 8 p. m. Meeting, St. Ann's Kindergarten, Bulwer Exchange, 7:30 p. m. Meeting, management board, Aid Association for Blind, Raleigh Hotel, 10:30 a. m. Meeting, dramatic art class, Home Club, 7:30 p. m. Entertainment, Ernest Schelling, pianist, ladies night of National Press Club, 9 p. m. Ladies' night, Columbia Lodge, No. 10, I. O. O. F., 8 p. m. Address, Dr. Frederick B. Power, "Aims and Development of Psycho-Chemical Research," at meeting Washington Chemical Society, Cosmos Club, 8 p. m. Masonic—The New Jerusalem, No. 9; George Washington, No. 22; Temple-Noyes, No. 22; William F. Hunt, No. 16, Eastern Star. Odd Fellows—Columbia, No. 10; Salem, No. 23; Excelsior, No. 17; Concord, No. 12. Knights of Pythias—Paul Chiefs' Association, Pythian Sisters. Fraternal Order of Eagles—Nomination of officers.

CITY LODGING HOUSE TO BE AT THIRD AND C

Site Is Purchased by Commissioners at Consideration Said To Be \$10,000.

The site of the new municipal lodging house has at last been determined by the purchase of plot at 322-334 C street. It was announced today by representatives of a local real estate company.

The sum paid is said to be \$10,000. Until the appropriation for a building is increased materially, no steps are to be taken for its erection. There is now between \$15,000 and \$20,000 available, but this is not considered enough.

The present lodging house is considered inadequate for the demands made upon it. Some seventy persons may be accommodated in the house, if necessary, but there are only fifty beds.

This is greatly in excess of the number there should be, for with the conditions that exist it is necessary to place the beds within a few inches of each other.

When a man goes to the municipal lodging house he is given supper, a bed, and a breakfast. In return for this he sows a small amount of wood, if he is physically able. If not, he helps with the housework. The work is completed in not more than two hours, after which the man is free to seek other work.

Should he not find work that day, he can stay at the house for three days, doing a nominal amount of work each day. If at the end of three days a man has no employment, but has a chance of obtaining work in the near future, he can stay until the prospective position materializes. In a number of cases employment has been procured by the superintendent of the home for the men.

ADVOCATES REVIVAL OF INAUGURAL BALL

Democratic Joy Needs Outlet, Says Baltimore Sun.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 22.—The Baltimore Sun, commenting editorially on the revival of the inaugural ball, today says:

"Democratic simplicity is a fine thing; we have often commended it strongly. And we admit that there is no logical connection we can see between a ball or a parade and the Presidential office. We are forced to confess, further, that March 4 is a very dangerous date for any out-of-door celebration, and that as long as our Presidents are inaugurated at that treacherous season it is perhaps more prudent not to arrange an elaborate popular show for the occasion.

"Nevertheless, we sympathize with those who protest against the abandonment of these gala features when Mr. Wilson begins his second term. Democratic enthusiasm needs an outlet, and after one of the most glorious victories in the history of the party there will be very keen and widespread disappointment should this customary demonstration be omitted. This is the last time that the Democratic legions will have a chance to participate in Mr. Wilson's induction into office, and in 1921 they may not have so much to do to Washington.

"The inaugural ball may be more or less frivolous and open in other respects to criticism; but it is an old institution, and it is a source of pleasure to ladies even of decided height of brow and marked intellectuality. It is a concession to the eternal feminine, to the female instinct for beauty, for ceremonial, for the pomp and splendor, the finery and display of a social function.

"The first thing that Ruth Law, the daring heroine of the air, thought of when she reached terra firma was powder for her nose. She, like every other woman, would rather be beautiful than great. The inaugural ball recognizes woman's craving to show man how pretty she is, and to show other women how much better she can dress and dance than they can.

"The untutored Democracy demand a chance to yell themselves hoarse on March 4 next; the untutored and untimely women of the country, Republicans as well as Democrats, and fragile and anti-suffragists, want to shine at the quadrangle ball. 'Simplify! Away with it! Let's have a royal good time!'

Refused Excise License, Asks for Lower Alimony

Asserting his income has been reduced to \$38.50 a month because of the Excise Board refusing to renew his license at the Cafe Bernhard, Eleventh street and New York avenue northwest, Bernard Endres has petitioned the District Supreme Court to reduce the alimony he has been ordered to pay Mrs. Endres.